

# FRIENDS FORUM

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Carlsbad City Library | Carlsbad, California | Spring 2013



## The Better Books Sale

**Cole Community Room**  
**Saturday, April 20**  
**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 21**  
**1 to 3 p.m.**

All items are half-price  
on Sunday.

## Summer Reading Program

**Begins June 17**

## Friends Annual Meeting

**Thursday, June 27, 7 p.m.**  
**Cole Community Room**

*"I love walking into  
a bookstore. It's like  
all my friends are  
sitting on shelves,  
waving their pages  
at me."*

– Tahereh Mafi

## An Interview with Lisa See

The 2013 selection for the "Carlsbad Reads Together" program is *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See. We were able to interview her for this issue of Friends Forum.

**Friends Forum:** Your grandfather was a writer and your mother is a writer. Do your sons show an interest in carrying on the family tradition?

**Lisa See:** My sons aren't interested in writing at all. One is in finance. The other is an attorney.

**FF:** In your most recent novel *Dreams of Joy* you return to the story of Pearl and May, whom we met in *Shanghai Sisters*. Can we expect to hear more about this family in future novels?

**See:** Not right now. I'm just finishing a new novel called *China Dolls*, but I still think a lot about what will happen next to Pearl, May, and Joy. And I planted lots of hints of what could happen if I wrote a third book in the series.

**FF:** Your novels are about strong Chinese women. Do you feel a special kinship with these women?

**See:** Absolutely! My father's side of the family is Chinese. My great-great-grandmother carried people on her back from village to village to earn money to support her children. That takes not just physical strength but great psychological strength, fortitude, and endurance. I have aunts who came to this country in arranged

marriages – much like Pearl and May – so I know how hard their lives were too.

**FF:** You are a Chinese-American woman, yet you do not look Chinese. How did this affect your childhood?

**See:** I lived with my mom, but I spent a lot of time with my father's family in Chinatown.

I also moved around a lot as a child, so Chinatown became a kind of home base for me. These were the people and places who had a huge influence on me as a woman and as a writer. But you're right. I didn't look like the rest of the Chinese side of my family. Today in Los Angeles I have about 400 relatives. About a dozen of them look like me, the majority are still full Chinese, and then

there's a little spectrum in between. How do we identify ourselves? By the people who are around us. They are our mirror, and my family was my mirror. But that doesn't mean I looked like everyone else. Recently, I ran into a man who was the son of the owner of the market where my grandparents shopped. He said that everyone called me the "lo fan nu'er," which means "little white ghost girl." They knew I belonged, but I sure looked different.

(continued on page 2)



Photo: Patricia Williams



### From Our Library and Cultural Arts Director

Recently, Collection Development Librarian Jacqui Petri reflected on the barren appearance of our new books shelves, despite having ordered and received more new books than in the recent past – thanks in great part to supplemental funding from the Friends. Jacqui did some research, and learned that 73% of our new books are in circulation – as Jacqui put it – “out among the people.”

That’s an impressive number! And it speaks to the heavy use of library services by the community. Where else do we see nearly three quarters of public resources actively in use at any given time? The online booking calendar for Dove Library meeting rooms shows the space booked the majority of the library’s open hours. Families fill storytime programs to capacity. And sadly, several times recently we’ve had to turn people away from programs in the Schulman

Auditorium when every seat was full.

These are indicators that our resources and services remain in steady demand despite change in the products and services we offer and consumer interests. I would like to think it also demonstrates we’re meeting community expectations. Programs like Carlsbad Reads Together allow us to showcase all that the Library has to offer by providing an opportunity to collectively read and appreciate a single book together; view a an inspiring exhibition; participate in the cultural ceremony of tea drinking; enjoy music and film – all contributing to a memorable community experience of which I hope you’ll be a part.

– Heather Pizzuto, Library and Cultural Arts Director



### An Interview with Lisa See

(continued from page 1)

**FF:** Your depictions of China are so vivid. Have you lived in China?

**See:** I haven’t lived in China, but I go all the time to do research, but some of my best research happens here too. I’m an absolute nut for research. In some ways it’s my favorite part of writing a book. For *Shanghai Girls*, I went to Shanghai, of course, but I also went to Angel Island. The Angel Island Immigration Station had been closed for many years, but I was invited on a special private tour. It was deeply meaningful to me to walk in the same places where my relatives had been held when they were entering the country all those years ago. I also interviewed people who’d been affected by the Confession Program. This is a subject that people still don’t like to talk about. One man said to me, “We aren’t dead yet, so we aren’t safe yet.” So much fear about that time still lingers, and getting people to talk about it was quite difficult.

### Other Works by Lisa See

In addition to *Shanghai Girls*, Lisa See has published a number of other books. While collecting the details for *On Gold Mountain*, she developed the idea for her first novel, *Flower Net* (1997), which was a national bestseller, a *New York Times* Notable Book, and on the *Los Angeles Times* Best Books List for 1997. *Flower Net* was also nominated for an Edgar award for best first novel. This was followed by two more mystery-thrillers, *The Interior* (2000) and *Dragon Bones* (2003), which once again featured the characters of Liu Hulan and David Stark.



She has also written two historical novels, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, and *Peony in Love*. In her most recent novel *Dreams of Joy*, we again meet up with the sisters Pearl and May, and Pearl’s daughter Joy.

All of Lisa See’s books are available at Carlsbad City Library.

*I have gone to [this bookshop] for years, always finding the one book I wanted*

*– and then three more I hadn’t known I wanted. – Mary Ann Shaffer*

## What's in Your Book Bag?

The Friends of the Carlsbad Library operate a bookstore at the Dove Library (the main store) and a smaller store at the Cole Library. We recently asked two patrons of the Friends bookstore, "What's in your book bag?"



**Yumi Grisnick** usually visits the Friends bookstore once a week looking for magazines. The location is very convenient for her, and buying recent magazines from the Friends of the Library is much less expensive than buying them at the newsstand.

Yumi not only buys our magazines, she also donates her gently used periodicals to the bookstore. She says this is another way she teaches her children to recycle; giving useable items to others keeps those items out of the trash.

**F. L. Timperlake** comes to the Friends bookstore pretty much every week. His favorite genre is historical novels, but he enjoys detective stories as well.



### Dove Bookstore hours

Monday & Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday: closed

## What's Happening at Your Library?

For more library event information, go to [www.carlsbadlibrary.org](http://www.carlsbadlibrary.org), or check in the Library's "Happenings," and in fliers in the information racks. You may also receive the latest event info directly to your in-box by visiting [www.carlsbadlibrary.org](http://www.carlsbadlibrary.org) and clicking on "sign up for our e-newsletter."

### Carlsbad ReadsTogether

is a communitywide reading event featuring *New York Times* bestseller *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See. All events are free and are sponsored by Friends of the Carlsbad Library.

#### BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Read *Shanghai Girls* and join us for a lively discussion about the book.

Dove Library, **Gowland Meeting Room**

**Wednesday** April 3 at 2 p.m.  
**Thursday** April 4 at 7 p.m.  
**Monday** April 22 at 7 p.m.

Cole Library, **Community Room**

**Tuesday** April 2 at 7 p.m.  
**Thursday** April 11 at 2 p.m.

Carlsbad City Library Learning Center

**Tuesday** April 23 at 6 p.m.

A Spanish-language discussion of *Dreams of Joy/Sueños de felicidad*, Lisa See's thrilling sequel to *Shanghai Girls*.

#### ART GALLERY

**Vanishing Traditions: Textiles and Treasures from Southwest China**  
**March 31 - June 2**

Dove Complex, **William D. Cannon Art Gallery**

A stunning private collection of Chinese textiles, clothing and crafts of the Guizhou Province in southwest China.

#### CONCERT

**Wu Man Concert**  
**April 21, 2 to 3 p.m.**

Dove Library, **Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium**

Wu Man is an internationally renowned pipa (Chinese lute) virtuoso, leading ambassador of Chinese music and a principal member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project.

#### CINEMA

Free movies celebrating Chinese culture in the Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium.

**Snow Flower and the Secret Fan** April 10, 6 p.m.

**Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** April 17, 6 p.m.

**The Joy Luck Club** April 24, 6 p.m.

#### EVENTS

**The Art of Chinese Tea**  
**April 13 at 1 p.m.**

Dove Library, **Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium**

Award winning author, China-scholar and health educator Ken Cohen will discuss the legends and lore of Chinese tea and demonstrate the Chinese Tea Ceremony. Free tickets will be given out at Schulman Auditorium beginning at 12 p.m. the day of the event.

**An Afternoon with Lisa See**  
**April 13 at 2 p.m.**

Dove Library, **Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium**

Seating is limited and tickets are required. Free tickets will be given out at Schulman Auditorium beginning at 12 p.m. the day of the talk.

#### FRIENDS OF THE CARLSBAD LIBRARY

E-mail: [carlsbadfriends@sandwich.net](mailto:carlsbadfriends@sandwich.net)  
Friends Bookstore: **760-602-2020**

**Taffy Cannon**, president  
**Linda Sarnowsky**, vice president  
**Ed Bauman**, treasurer  
**Pat Hansen**, secretary  
**Karen Johnson**, newsletter editor



**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OF CARLSBAD, CA, INC.**  
**1775 DOVE LANE, CARLSBAD, CA 92011**

A nonprofit corporation:  
Contributions are tax-deductible

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL                             | \$15                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY                                 | \$25                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE                                   | \$150                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have enclosed an additional donation |   |

If you are already a volunteer, we thank you.

If you would like to volunteer, please check:

- ☐ DOVE LIBRARY BOOKSTORE  
☐ COLE LIBRARY MINI STORE

Friends of the Library of Carlsbad, CA, Inc.  
1775 Dove Lane  
Carlsbad, CA 92011

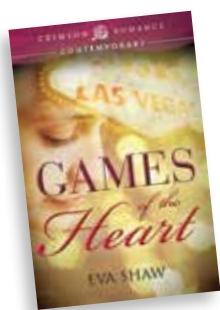
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Renewal Date

## New Books by Friends Members

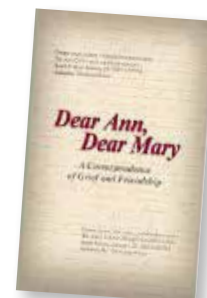


Eva Shaw, Ph.D. ([www.evashaw.com](http://www.evashaw.com)) is the ghostwriter and author of more than 70 award-winning books. *Games of the Heart* (Crimson Romance) reached #21 on Amazon's Top 100 and #3 on Amazon's best contemporary literature/novels, introducing Pastor Jane, outspoken youth minister for a Las Vegas mega church. *Ghostwriting: The Complete Guide* was featured in the 2013 *Writer's Market* with an article by Eva on ghostwriting.

Ann Carli and Mary Woods Scherr share their intensely personal email correspondence after losing their husbands in *Dear Ann, Dear Mary: A Correspondence of Grief and*

*Friendship* (eFrog Press). Ann and Mary both retired from collegiate academic careers.

Both books are part of Carlsbad City Library's collection. If you've recently published a book, let us know at [carlsbadfriends@sandwich.net](mailto:carlsbadfriends@sandwich.net).



## Flag Disposal

**D**o you have a worn flag that should be disposed of properly? Leave it in the red receptacle outside the Dove or Cole Library. The Carlsbad Fire Department will take care of the rest, correctly and respectfully.